

TRIBUTE TO MISSY THOMS AND
JIM KAVARS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two heroic individuals from north Iowa for their swift and unselfish actions, which resulted in saving a man's life.

On Saturday, September 29, 2007, Eusebio "Joe" Garcia of Albert Lea, Minnesota, was driving on a highway in Mason City, Iowa, when he suffered a heart attack and lost control of his vehicle into the median.

Missy Thoms of Mason City and Jim Kavars of Clear Lake witnessed the vehicle in the median and quickly came to the scene to assist. Joe did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Missy and Jim conducted CPR until the paramedics arrived. Missy, a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Mason City, advised the paramedics that Joe needed an IV and to be defibrillated. With that helpful information and Missy and Jim's work, the paramedics revived Joe's breathing before they even had him in the ambulance.

Missy and Jim are great examples to use when teaching our children and grandchildren about the importance of helping thy neighbor.

I know that all of my colleagues join me in commending Missy Thoms and Jim Kavars and honoring them for their swift and unselfish actions which resulted in saving Joe Garcia's life. I am truly honored to represent both of these heroes in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 962, H.R. 2089—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
BERNADETTE PAVLISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bernadette Pavlish, a devoted wife and loving mother, and I celebrate her dedication to her family and the community.

By all accounts, Bernadette simply lit up an entire room with her presence. Her smile became an instant source of comfort and joy for anyone who was lucky enough to cross paths with her. Bernadette was extremely generous with her time and talents; she never passed up an opportunity to help someone.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Bernadette Pavlish, who is

survived by her husband James, and her children Ursula, Vincent and Lavinia. Although she has passed, her spirit will continue to shine brightly and her memory will live on in all those blessed to have known her.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF AMERICA'S WATERWAY
WATCH PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and I want to commend Mr. BILIRAKIS for drawing attention to this important program.

The attacks of 9/11 made every citizen mindful of the need for constant vigilance to protect our country from the threat of terrorism. Keeping America safe requires the efforts of every American.

The openness of our Nation's waterways and harbors prevents opportunities for terrorists to exploit. The U.S. Coast Guard works very hard to ensure the safety of these areas, and they do a tremendous job for which we are all very grateful.

However, recreational boaters also have an important role to play in this area, and America's Waterway Watch program works hard to teach recreational boaters about what they can do to protect our homeland. Boaters provide critical eyes and ears in watching over our coasts, our ports, and other important infrastructure like bridges and tunnels.

Specifically, participants in the campaign are requested to report: Individuals engaged in irregular activity such as surveillance or unusual boating operations; unattended vessels in strange locations; lights flashing between boats; unusual activity near bridges, overpasses, industrial facilities, or fuel docks.

In Michigan this program has been particularly important. My home state has over 3,000 miles of shoreline—more than any other state except Alaska—which presents an incredible challenge for our government agencies to patrol. And of course we share much of this water with Canada which enables people to come across into the United States very easily. And in some places this liquid border is quite narrow—such as the St. Clair or Detroit Rivers. So we really have to rely on our boaters to keep their eyes on things.

In Michigan, we have more than 900,000 boats registered in our state, which makes us the number 1 state for per capita boat ownership, and 3rd overall behind Florida and California. Boating is an important part of life in the Great Lakes State.

In 2005, state officials began a campaign to notify our state's boaters of this Waterway Watch program. Working with the Coast Guard and the Michigan Boating Industries Association, Michigan sent out a brochure on this program with each watercraft registration renewal notice. Since 2007 was the 3rd year this was done, we have now reached nearly all of our state's boaters with information about the Waterway Watch program.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this program, I strongly support the resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO AUGUST GLIEM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize August Gliem of Ogden, Iowa, for his longtime service to the International Lions Club. Gus was recently awarded the 50-Year Monarch Milestone Chevron Award for his 50 years of service to the Lions Club, which began on July 1, 1957.

The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters.

Fifty years of service isn't slowing Gus down, and I am told that he is still very active in the Lions Club. I consider it an honor to serve Gus in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues will join me in recognizing and honoring Gus' dedication to his community and his commitment to the International Lions Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 963, H.R. 20—Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3056, TAX COLLECTION
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANGEL, for his work in bringing H.R. 3056 to the House floor. I have received feedback from Vermont citizens and members of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), both in Vermont and nationwide, strongly urging the repeal of the IRS authority to use private debt collectors. There has been much concern for this practice of using "private bounty hunters." National NTEU employees expressed deep concern for outsourcing of inherently governmental jobs.

In January, 2007, the National Taxpayer Advocate, who is appointed by the Treasury Secretary, sent a strong message to Congress urging repeal of this authority as a burden and cost to taxpayers. Taxpayers have faced overzealous intimidation and abuse by private collectors as well as the loss of privacy and confidential information. The Taxpayer Advocate reported to Congress that "the money spent on the IRS Private Debt Collection initiative is

an inefficient use of government dollars." The National Taxpayer Advocate Service has testified that IRS employees bring in \$20 for every dollar IRS spends, whereas private debt collectors bring in only 4.

This bill will reverse these inefficiencies and abuses on the American taxpayer.

I have also heard from other Vermont organizations, including many Builders Associations and other federal, state, and local government contractors, voicing strong support for the delay in implementation of certain tax withholding provisions provided in this bill. H.R. 3056 postpones for one year, until December 31, 2011, the application of a three-percent withholding requirement on the payments of goods and services made by the U.S. Government, States, and local governments. This delay allows the Treasury Secretary the time to study issues associated with the three-percent withholding, including the burdens to small businesses as well as the application of the tax to small expenditures for goods and services by governments.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support passage of this rule and the underlying bill.

HONORING KRIV-TV'S GREGG GROOGAN, MARK MULLER AND APRILLE MEEK FOR WINNING THE CASEY MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS JOURNALISM

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor three remarkable journalists at Houston's own KRIV-TV for winning the prestigious Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism.

Greg Groogan, Mark Muller and Aprille Meek last week received the 2007 Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for short form television for their insightful story on the difficulties faced by Texas's parents of children using special education, "Special Ed-Broken Promise?" This story, the opening of a several-month series on special education in Texas, provided an eye-opening look at the hurdles that special education parents face in providing the "free appropriate public education" to which they are entitled per the Individual with Disabilities Education Act.

For Mr. Groogan, Mr. Muller and Ms. Meek, this impressive award represents the culmination of the excellent work that they have done over the years for KRIV-TV. Mr. Groogan alone has won over sixty journalism awards, including five Lone Star Emmys, 15 Associated Press Awards, and honors from the Houston Press Club, the Texas Cancer Society and the Texas State Teachers Association. Over 700 journalists entered the contest for the 2007 Casey Medals, demonstrating that these journalists truly went above and beyond the call of duty with the excellent work for which they received the Casey Medal.

In awarding these three deserving individuals with the Casey Medal, the Casey Journalism Center on Children and Families described "Special Ed-Broken Promise?" as a "masterful job," and indeed it was. It is fitting that this award would go to individuals who have shown incredible courage, tenacity and

wisdom in their reporting. I congratulate Mr. Groogan, Mr. Muller and Ms. Meek for this well-deserved award and I hope that their work serves as an inspiration to others across the nation.

VISION CARE FOR KIDS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LOESACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 507, the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007. I applaud Congressman GREEN for introducing this important legislation and for recognizing the importance of vision screening for our children.

It is estimated that one in four children in school and one in twenty children in preschool develop eye disorders. Screening for vision problems in children is extremely important as it can be difficult to recognize these types of problems in children, and children are often not capable of expressing they are experiencing vision issues.

Amblyopia is cited as the most common vision problem in children. This affects one or both eyes and can lead to permanent vision loss and long term problems. As many as 9,000 children in Iowa under the age of 4 suffer from this problem. Thankfully for children in Iowa, the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and the Lions Club of Iowa teamed up in 2000 to create a program called Iowa KidSight. Iowa KidSight provides free vision screening for infants and young children throughout every county in Iowa and also serves to educate parents and the public on the benefits of vision screening.

Since 2000, Iowa KidSight has screened over 90,300 children from the ages of 6 years to 48 months. Unfortunately not every child who is referred to see a specialist is able to do so for a variety of reasons, which is why the Vision Care for Kids Act is so important. This legislation will help supplement the program in my state and others by awarding grants to help ensure these children are able to see a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist, receive the treatment they need, and also inform and educate parents, teachers, and others who work with children on recognizing early signs of vision problems.

Detecting early signs of vision problems in children and getting them the medical attention they need can be crucial for development and well-being for the rest of their lives. The Vision Care for Kids Act recognizes this fact and will make significant improvements in the amount of children who are able to receive the care they need to learn and grow. I strongly support H.R. 507, the Vision Care for Kids Act and urge its passage.

HONORING DR. MOHANA ARLA

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mohana Arla, an

outstanding man with a great record of community service. Dr. Arla, a resident of Bullitt County, has been named Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Bullitt County Education Association.

Dr. Arla has provided medical care for the citizens of Bullitt County for many years. He is an internal medicine physician with Bullitt County Family Practitioners in Hillview, Kentucky and has his own practice in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky. Dr. Arla has been a strong advocate of bringing additional medical practitioners to the Bullitt County area.

In July of 2007 Dr. Arla partnered with Jewish Hospital Medical Center South to conduct a free weight-loss program for the residents of Bullitt County. The program, titled "Lose a Pound, Gain a Dollar," gave residents the opportunity to lose weight while offering them a monetary reward for their hard work. This program is a great example of his commitment to improving the lives of Bullitt County's residents.

Dr. Arla has also demonstrated a strong commitment to local education. He has been very involved in efforts to bring a community college to Bullitt County. Dr. Arla is a member of the County Board leading the effort and has made a substantial donation to this cause.

It is my privilege to recognize Dr. Mohana Arla today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his hard work and service to his community.

HONORING RETIRED DALLAS
POLICE OFFICER REX POST

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I, along with Representative RALPH HALL, would like to honor retired Dallas Police Officer, Corporal Rex Post. Corporal Post has been a fixture in the Dallas Police Department for over 24 years. Along with his normal duties as a patrol officer, Corporal Post was also a class advisor at the police academy and, when he was off duty, he was neighborhood crime watch patrol officer in the Lakewood neighborhood of Dallas.

Corporal Post's outstanding character can best be seen in his interactions with his community. Last year a senior citizen in Corporal Post's neighborhood was robbed of her money by a stranger who had come to her door. Corporal Post not only made sure the neighborhood was safe, but he and his family also brought her gifts to lift her spirits.

Recently, Corporal Post was diagnosed with stage-four colon cancer, which is a life-threatening cancer. In a show of support, his family, friends, and community have rallied around him as he battles the cancer. He says it is faith and the love of his wife Janet and sons Rex III, Austin, and Jonathan that keep him strong.

Madam Speaker, as Representatives of the city of Dallas, Texas and Paris, Texas, it is our distinct honor to commend retired Dallas Police Officer, Corporal Rex Post, for his outstanding service to his community and his courageous attitude and faith.